

The Posture of Christ Followers

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Introduction:

Text: Acts 16:25-34

A. The Cause of Paul and Silas' Persecution and Troubles (Acts 16:16-24)

1. The Person of Christ
2. The Message of Christ
3. The Mission of the Church

B. The Response of Paul and Silas to the Persecution and Troubles they faced

1. Prayer = Their Petition (Acts 16:25; Acts 4:29-31)
 - Petition to boldly proclaim Christ's Message (v. 29)
 - Petition for power (v. 30-31)
2. Praise = Their Passion (Acts 16:25)
 - Devotion to God
 - Dependence on God
3. Peace = Their Perspective (Acts 16:25)
 - Inner Strength
 - Inner Resolve
4. Purpose = Their Proclamation (Acts 16:26-34)
 - To share the gospel
 - To save the lost

Conclusion:

Table Talk

Overview

When we left Paul in Acts 9, his powerful ministry had just begun. Another believer named Barnabas brought him to the apostles in Jerusalem, and he proclaimed Jesus there for a season. Paul's fiery preaching was garnering the wrong kind of attention. In the same way that Paul had threatened the Early Church, now his own life was being threatened. The apostles decided to send Paul away to Tarsus for his protection. Paul was beginning to realize the cost associated with the call of God on His life.

1. Think about a time you loved something the moment you saw it, but had sticker shock when you found out what it cost. Did you purchase it or walk away?
2. Has anyone ever paid an extravagant price for something on your behalf? How did their generosity make you feel?
3. **Read Acts 12:1–4**
 - * Thankfully, for most believers, we don't have to pay for our faith with our life. But what are some costs involved in following Jesus today?
 - * When is the best time to communicate the cost to those who are ready to accept Jesus?
4. **Read Acts 16:16–24**
 - * Following Jesus may cost us too. What challenges have you or others faced in pursuit of God?
 - * Finances are still a source of bondage for many people. In what way can we let money keep us from following Christ wholeheartedly?
5. **Read Acts 16:25–35**
 - * Paul and Silas sang in their struggle. What is your first response when you are experiencing suffering because you are following the Lord?
 - * Can you share a real-life example of someone who inspired you to willingly pay the cost for another person to get closer to God?